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Letters

The fate of traitors

Perhaps it is in the interest of the United States that Philip Agee does not work for the government anymore. The man seems completely unaware of facts. He talks of the "more modest activities of the KGB," in comparison with those of the CIA.

He should have read the June 18 column in your Commentary section about how mercilessly the Soviets treat their traitors, or the June 17 Time article explaining how a Soviet colonel in military intelligence who was discovered to be working for the CIA was "hurled alive into a crematorium furnace." How about Andrei Sakharov and Yelena Bonner, has he heard of them?

If Mr. Agee is unaware of these facts then surely he does not know that if the tables were turned and he declared himself a convert to "revolutionary capitalism," he would either be dead or in a "hospital," being administered insanity-inducing drugs.

What Mr. Agee deserves and this country needs to create is a little

refresher course on effective prosecution. Philip Agee and others like him should be tried for treason and punished to the fullest extent of the law.

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